

**ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

*Established 1727 ~ An Open and Affirming Community*



November 23, 2014 ~ 10:00 a.m.  
Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost  
**THANKSGIVING SUNDAY**

# ~ORDER OF WORSHIP~

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*We welcome all and extend a special greeting to our guests; our service is enriched by your presence!  
Please join us in Chapin Hall for fellowship time after worship.*

*The Welcome Table in Chapin Hall offers information about the church and members who can answer your questions. **Hearing devices and large-print bulletins** are available for worship—ask an usher. **Nursery care** is always available down the hall in Room 4.*

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## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Meghan D. Young

*Please include your full address and phone number as you sign our friendship registration pads, and please wear your nametags. All announcements should be written down and given to the ushers or pastors prior to worship.*

*If you have a prayer request you would like read aloud for today's prayers, please fill out one of the prayer cards found in the friendship registration pads (your name is optional) and be prepared to pass it to the aisles at the time of the offering, when the cards will be collected.*

## INTROIT

“Now I Walk in Beauty”

Native American

The Choir

*Now I walk in beauty;  
Beauty is before me,  
Beauty is behind me,  
Above and below me.*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka

Come, let's sing out loud to our God!

**Let's raise a joyful shout to the rock of our salvation!**

Let's come before our God with thanks!

**Let's shout songs of joy to God!**

For God is good;

God's steadfast love endures forever,

and God's faithfulness to all places and generations.

**We are God's people.**

**Let's worship with thanks and joy, offering our hearts!**

**Let's praise God in song and word and prayer!**

*\*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

*\***Bold type denotes collective response.***

**\*HYMN**

“Enter, Rejoice, and Come In” New Century (Black) 73

**\*GATHERING PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER**

What blessings are ours!

Gracious God, we give you thanks for all that you have done for us,  
that you have created us, and have given us the gift of life,  
and set us to live in this wondrous creation;  
that you have given us work to do, and the strength to do it;  
that you have kept us all our days,  
and brought us in safety to this present hour.

We thank you God with heart and hands and voices.

Open our eyes O God that we might know you better,  
and see your presence in every person,  
and respond to their needs,  
so that we may be rightly called by your name.

Help us this day,  
to receive you fully,  
and to be ready to follow you,  
in thanksgiving, hope, and courage.

This we ask in Jesus’ name and spirit, as we also say together:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts  
as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power  
and the glory forever. Amen.

**\*SUNG RESPONSE**

“Now Thank We All Our God” New Century (Black) 419

*Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices  
Who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices  
Who from our parents’ arms, has blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.*

**MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES**

# THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (inserted in the bulletin)

## CHILDREN'S RECESSIONAL

*(Children are invited to depart for S.P.I.R.I.T. Church School)*

“We Will Keep a Place For You”

by John Corrado



We will keep a place for you where - ev - er you may go.  
We'll sus-tain this home of faith and love you've come to know. Go in peace, bring  
hope to hearts that yearn. We will keep a place for you 'till you re-turn.

## ANTHEM

“St. Antoni Chorale”

Haydn-Brahms

The Choir

text by Lowell

*Let us sing together, thank Him,  
Lord of all creation.  
For the morrow bringeth comfort  
Through out every nation.*

*Then shall all the people thank Him,  
For His wondrous work  
Striving ever forward,  
As He planned for all the earth.*

*So we sing with all and thank the Lord,  
All the voices join the chorus, all the people thank Him.*

*All the voices sing together,  
Sing His praises,  
Sing His glory.  
Let us thank the Lord.*

## READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Matthew 25:31-46

SERMON

“It’s All About the Band”

The Rev. Meghan D. Young

\*HYMN

“Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us”

New Century (black) 583

## OFFERING OF GIFTS

*Following the receiving of offerings by the ushers, the pastor(s) will come to the center aisle to receive prayer request cards.*

### Invitation to the Offering

*For those who have already given their offering, Giving Cards are available in your pew so that all may participate in the act of the offering.*

### Offertory Anthem

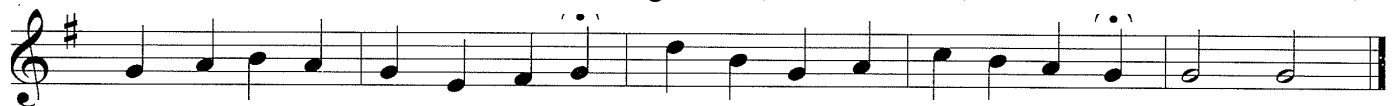
“Andante” from Sonata No. 3, K.545

Mozart

### \*Doxology



Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;



Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen

### \*Prayer of Dedication

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### Joys & Concerns

### Sung Call to Prayer

Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God; in -

cline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.

## Pastoral and Silent Prayer

\*HYMN “Come, O Thankful People, Come” New Century (black) 422

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE “Voluntary and Fugue in C” Handel

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ACOLYTES Brian Speers and Victoria Bower  
GREETERS Barry and Nancy Wilcock  
USHERS Jim & Lois Stevens and Dona and Polly Pagnucco  
HOSPITALITY Chris and Kathy Mosure

The tower is lit this week in memory of Franklyn Hitchcock  
by Sue Starr.



### Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service

7:00 PM

Tuesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>

at St Andrews Episcopal Church

331 Orchard Street

Join us in worship at the annual Rocky Hill Thanksgiving Service, as we give thanks and praise to God with our brothers and sisters of the various Christian faith communities in town. Raise up your voice with an ecumenical choir that will lead us in song.

*Refreshments to follow.*

## **S.P.I.R.I.T. Corner**

*Serve, Pray, Invite, Receive, Ignite, Tell*

### **S.P.I.R.I.T. Faith Nurture Ideas**

**(Parents:** *Pick-Up your child in Chapin Hall)*

*These faith nurture ideas coordinate with the weekly session plans for church school. We hope you will join us in learning, teaching, and growing together!*

#### **Here's what we're learning about this week...**

*This week we are beginning our unit "Los Posadas" through which we will explore the season of Advent (find out more below). Los Posadas helps us remember that the birth story of Christ is a story of immigrants traveling in a foreign land. While we don't start Advent for another week, this week we celebrate Thanksgiving, and remember our own roots as immigrants. Remember and share times when you have been welcomed as a stranger, and when you have welcomed the stranger. As we give thanks, let us give thanks for a God who welcomes us, and take time to welcome others.*

#### **LESSON → Los Posadas**

Mexico has a celebration called *Los Posadas*. This is a reenactment of the journey of Mary and Joseph to find a safe place to stay in Jerusalem and have their baby. *Los Posadas* happens during the last 12 days of Advent. Each night Mary and Joseph go from house to house asking if there is room for them to stay. Some places say there is "no room," just like the inn keeper. But finally, on Christmas Eve, there is one place that welcomes Mary and Joseph to stay.

**Prayer For The Week:** Jesus, help us to remember to celebrate all of our life journeys. May we find a place of welcome and share hospitality with others. *Amen.*

#### **NOAH'S TABLE (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade) – TODAY!**

Real conversations with Jesus are always dangerous. Bring a song you're listening to right now. Join us for a unique conversation as we make dinner together. Please RSVP with Meghan Young at [Meghan@rhccucc.org](mailto:Meghan@rhccucc.org).

## **ADVENT GATHERING**

### **Sunday, November 30, 5 PM – 7 PM**

Join us for a pot-luck dinner, crafts, and worship as we prepare for this of Advent to wait in anticipation for the birth of Jesus Christ.

*This is an intergenerational event  
for the entire church family and friends.*

Please sign-up in Chapin Hall or email [Meghan@rhccucc.org](mailto:Meghan@rhccucc.org)  
to let us know you are coming.

# Jingle Bell Rock!

A Children's Christmas Workshop & Celebration



Come join us for a fun-filled morning of singing everyone's favorite Christmas carols, playing games, making crafts, and decorating tasty treats. *Adult supervision provided.*

Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>  
9 AM - 12 PM

Open to ALL children in PreK - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

Bring a non-perishable food item or new toy for those in need in our community.

Freewill donations accepted to cover the cost of this event.

RSVP: Please Call 860-529-4167, ext 204 or email [meghan@rhccucc.org](mailto:meghan@rhccucc.org) to let us know you're coming!



## SCRIP-SURE

*What is it? Scrip-sure is a fundraising program for our church, which allows the regular shopping we do at a variety of retailers to generate income for the church. How? Participating retailers sell gift certificates or gift cards to our church at a discount. Church members buy the certificates for full face value and redeem them for full face value, and our church keeps the difference as revenue. Everybody wins! The retailers get our business, and our church gets a regular source of revenue that involves nothing other than what we would all be doing anyway – shopping/spending at grocery stores, drugstores, restaurants, gas stations, and many other businesses, including online retailers.*

If you placed an order last weekend, you may pick up your cards at the scrip table this morning. For the first two weeks of November, RHCC has already earned a profit of about \$1000. But based on the precedent of the past few years, the next two weeks will be the most profitable two-week period of the year.

To that end, the next ordering deadline will be on Sunday, November 30. Cards ordered by that day will be available for pickup on Sunday, December 7th. You may turn in an order form anytime in the next two weeks. Orders may also be emailed to [treasurer@rhccucc.org](mailto:treasurer@rhccucc.org). For a complete list of available retailers and restaurants, go to [rhccucc.org/scriplist](http://rhccucc.org/scriplist) or pick up a listing at the scrip table in Chapin Hall.

We continue to have a variety of cards in inventory from more than 35 different restaurants and retailers, available for immediate purchase this morning, including (but not limited to):

**Coffee:** Dunkin Donuts, Starbucks

**Fast food:** Boston Market, Burger King, Chipotle, McDonalds, Panera,  
Subway, Wendy's

**Gas:** Exxon/Mobil, Shell, Sunoco

**Grocery:** Big Y, Stop & Shop, Trader Joe's, Westside Marketplace,  
Whole Foods

**Pharmacy:** CVS, Walgreens

**Restaurants:** Bertucci's, Bonefish Grill, Buffalo Wild Wings,  
On the Border

**Shopping:** Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Bed Bath & Beyond, Best Buy,  
Home Depot, Kohl's, iTunes, Lowes, Marshall's, Shutterfly,  
Staples, Target, Walmart

See Gail Hall at the scrip table this morning for a complete listing of available cards, or to have all of your questions answered.

**THINK SCRIP!**

# OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE

## THANKSGIVING FOOD AND CLOTHING DRIVE

NOVEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup> - 30<sup>TH</sup>

This year the RHCC Missions Board is again holding a food and clothing drive to benefit our friends at Peter's Retreat! We will be looking for cold weather clothing items that are either new or very gently used, both male and female, as well as dry goods and pantry items to help stock their kitchen, and holiday decorations that are in good condition. We will begin collecting items the week of November 9<sup>th</sup> and end on Sunday November 30<sup>th</sup>. Please drop off items to either the Missions Room, or in the box by the Missions Board in Chapin Hall.

Please contact Meghan Montana with any questions 203-640-2386 or [meghan.montana1105@gmail.com](mailto:meghan.montana1105@gmail.com)

**Clothing Items Needed:** sweaters/sweatshirts/fleece, long sleeve shirts, coats, gloves, hats, scarves, warm socks, blankets, twin bed sheet sets (sheet sets must be new)

**Food Items Needed:** dry cake, muffin, and other baking mixes, dry pasta, sauces, rice, beans, canned soups, canned vegetables, canned fruits, dried fruits, oils, cooking spray, spices, etc.

*Peter's Retreat is a residential housing program that helps individuals and families living with HIV/AIDS to receive the comprehensive and compassionate services necessary to live healthier lives and break the cycle of homelessness.*

**Please Note:** This drive is replacing the Foodshare "Turkey and a Thirty" drive that we have done in past years. However, if you wish to donate to the Foodshare campaign you can still do so at these locations in the area: West Side Market Place (Rocky Hill), Wethersfield Stop and Shop, Wethersfield Volunteer Ambulance or visit [www.foodshare.org](http://www.foodshare.org) for more locations.





**CHRISTIAN ACTIVITIES COUNCIL  
CHRISTMAS PARTY:  
YOU ARE ALL INVITED TO OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS  
PARTY**

47 Vine Street, Hartford  
on December 15, 2014 from 5-7.

A donation of non perishable food items is appreciated.

If you have questions, contact Rich Pawlich-Pagliccio at 860-257-8177

**WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY**

In the event of winter weather on a Sunday morning, our first priority is to ensure the safety of church members. Some winters the snow and ice are a real danger, and so worship is cancelled for the day. If such a storm happens, please know that a system is in place to make as many of our members and friends aware as possible. If and when worship is canceled, notice will be posted on **Channel 3 WFSB-TV**, and the voice mail greeting on the church phone will be updated with the cancellation if you choose to phone the main number. Additionally, an email and phone tree will alert church leaders to the same information. It takes a real storm to disrupt our worship, but if that happens, we want to be ready. Cancellations will also be posted on the church website: [www.rhccucc.org](http://www.rhccucc.org).

On weekdays, if schools are closed in Rocky Hill, the church office will also be closed.

## THIS WEEK AT RHCC

### November 23

10:00am	<b>Worship</b>	Chapin Hall
11:20am	<b>Children's Choir</b>	Choir Room
11:30am	<b>Second Hour</b>	Chapin Hall
11:40am	<b>Adult Choir</b>	Choir Room
5:00pm	<b>Noah's Table</b>	
12:30pm	<b>Search Committee</b>	Fiorilli Room
4:00pm	Tamil Sangram	Rm 22, 23, 24, 25

### Sunday



### November 24

7:00pm	Women's AA	Chapin Hall
7:00pm	<b>Bowling</b>	
7:30pm	<b>Bell Choir</b>	Loft

### Monday

### November 25

6:00pm	Community Event	Room 25
7:00pm	Ecumenical Service	St. Andrews

### Tuesday

### November 26

9:30am	<b>Quilters</b>	Room 6
7:00pm	<b>Adult Choir</b>	

### Wednesday

### November 27

#### OFFICE CLOSED

7:30pm	Men's AA	Chapin Hall
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### Thursday

### November 28

#### OFFICE CLOSED

### Friday

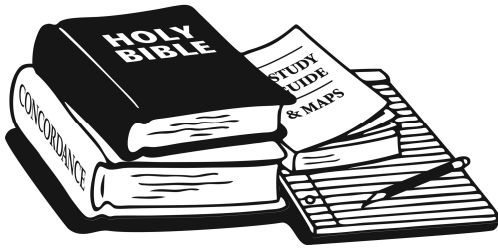
## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Nov. 24	Kim Batterson Biglow
25	Jeannie Alessi William McKenna
28	Kade Lamontagne

### **WORSHIP RECORDINGS AVAILABLE**

Audio recordings, written sermons and bulletins for many of our Sunday worship services are available on the church website, [rhccucc.org](http://rhccucc.org) (See WORSHIP BULLETINS), or you may contact the office to request an audio CD or printed sermon.

# Be Nourished



## COMING AFTER THE HOLIDAYS.....

### Things I've Always Wondered about Christianity (But Was Afraid to Ask)

*A small-group exploration series based on topics provided by the congregation.*

It's been my experience in many years of ministry that we are often carrying questions and struggles about very basic ideas, beliefs or meanings within the Christian faith that we don't feel we understand very well, or that may once have made sense to us but now make less sense, or that seem ill-fitting in some way with how we have experienced God or our own faith. It's good to have a community of others to talk with about those challenges. (For one thing, we generally find we're not alone in having them). This will be designed as a series of small-group conversations within which any and all questions, doubts or struggles can be shared, and we'll explore them together.

-Rev. Brenda

Examples:

*I never did believe in the Virgin Birth. Does that mean I'm not Christian?*

*I have a lot of trouble with all the violence of God in the Bible. Am I supposed to believe that's really what God is like?*

*So much in the Bible is not plausible, scientifically or literally. Am I expected to believe it all literally? What if I don't?*

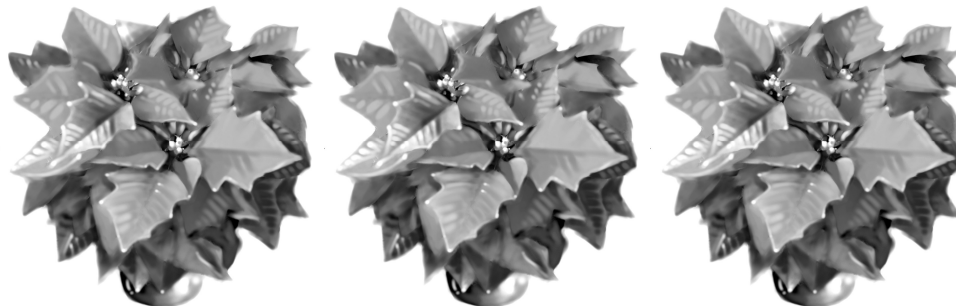
*I used to believe in a "substitutionary atonement" (Jesus' death was in our place, "paid for" our sins) but now that seems absurd to me. How does someone else's death relieve my guilt?*

*I struggle with what to tell my children when bad things happen in the world. What can I tell them about God...?*

**If you would like to participate, there are forms in the narthex and in Chapin Hall to submit a question or topic by Dec. 12 (can be returned to the church office or placed in one of the marked envelopes in the narthex or Chapin Hall). Please indicate also your preference for a meeting time for the small group. Plans will be announced after the input has been received.**

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*Remember to Honor your Loved Ones  
With Christmas Poinsettias*



They will adorn the sanctuary for worship on  
**Sunday, December 21st**

**The cost is \$12.50 per plant.**

**Ordering deadline is Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**

Please fill out the information below and mail to Kim Burghoff (*see address below*)

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Dedication ("in loving memory of..." or "in honor of..." etc.):

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please select:

I will pick-up my plant after worship on Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>.

Use my plant to decorate the church through Christmas.

The Deacons may give my plant to a shut-in or homebound member.

**Make your checks payable to:**

**Rocky Hill Congregational Church with "Poinsettia" in memo line and mail to:**

Kim Burghoff

204 Gray Fox Lane, Rocky Hill CT 06067.

You may call Kim with questions at 860 563-3287.

**Rocky Hill Congregational Church, United Church of Christ**  
**805 Old Main Street**  
**Rocky Hill, CT 06067**

Church Office: [office@rhccucc.org](mailto:office@rhccucc.org) / 860 529-4167

Church Website: [rhccucc.org](http://rhccucc.org)

Visit us on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/rhccucc](http://www.facebook.com/rhccucc)

**Office Hours**

Monday – Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Friday

8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**Open and Affirming Statement**

Because we believe that all people are created in God's image and thus are blessed and loved equally by God, and because love is a unifying and strengthening force within our Christian Faith,

We, the members of the Rocky Hill Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, hereby declare ourselves an Open and Affirming Christian community, actively expressing Jesus' inclusive embrace of all people.

We welcome all who seek to follow Jesus, including persons of every age, gender, race, national origin, faith background, marital status and family structure, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, mental and physical ability, economic and social status, and educational background, to share in the life, leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings and joys of our church family.

Jesus teaches us to welcome all God's children into God's covenantal community. As we grow together in faith and love, we will strive to celebrate the diversity in which God has created us.

*Approved by congregational vote June 2009*

**Ministry Team**

Ministers: All the members of the church

Interim Senior Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka [brenda@rhccucc.org](mailto:brenda@rhccucc.org)

Acting Associate Pastor for Faith Formation: The Rev. Meghan D. Young  
[meghan@rhccucc.org](mailto:meghan@rhccucc.org)

Minister of Music: Mary DeLibero [mary@rhccucc.org](mailto:mary@rhccucc.org)

Office Manager: Mitsey Baker [office@rhccucc.org](mailto:office@rhccucc.org)

Webmaster: Dave Hall [webmaster@rhccucc.org](mailto:webmaster@rhccucc.org)